

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05597 271035Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 SCS-06 CPR-01 INR-10
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-----067848 271114Z /17

P R 271001Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2832
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5597

NEA/IAI FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN, CASC, PEPR, IS, US
SUBJ: PROPOSED US/ISRAELI CONSULAR CONVENTION

REF: (A) STATE 102442, (B) STATE 91233 (NOTAL), (C) TEL AVIV
4314 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE NOT RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH THE ISRAELIS
SINCE THE CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL C AND WILL NOT
UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY. OUR JUDGMENT IS
THAT THE TWO QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 2 REFTEL A WOULD
BE ANSWERED NEGATIVELY.

2. ISRAEL WOULD NOT ACCEPT A PROVISION IN A CONSULAR
CONVENTION SPECIFYING THAT THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER IN
JERUSALEM IS NOT ACCREDITED TO THE GOI. THE ISRAELI
POSITION HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THAT REUNIFIED JERUSALEM
IS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL AND WILL REMAIN SO. ISRAELIS
HAVE CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT TO USE ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO
MAKE THIS POINT AND THEY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REFUSE TO
ACCEPT ANY PROVISION SUCH AS THE ONE DESCRIBED.

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3. A PROVISION WHICH SPECIFIED THAT THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES
OF CONSULAR OFFICERS RELATE ONLY TO THEIR FUNCTIONS INSIDE
THE PRE-1967 BOUNDARIES IS ALSO UNLIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED.
FOR ONE THING, THAT DEFINITION WOULD EXCLUDE EAST JERUSALEM,
WHICH ISRAEL ANNEXED IN 1967, AND ISRAEL WOULD FIND THAT UN-
ACCEPTABLE. AS FAR AS THE WEST BANK IS CONCERNED, THE GOI
MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT WORDING IN A PROVISION WHICH RESTRICTED

CONSULAR FUNCTIONS TO THE PRE-1967 BOUNDARIES "AS THOSE BOUNDARIES MAY BE DEFINED IN ANY FUTURE PEACE ARRANGEMENT WITH NEIGHBORING STATES" OR SIMILAR WORDING.

4. UPON FURTHER REFLECTION, GIVEN THE CURRENT UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING THE FUTURE STATUS OF JERUSALEM, THIS SUBJECT MIGHT BEST BE PUT ON ICE FOR THE PRESENT TIME. GIVEN ISRAELI SENSITIVITIES TO PERCEIVED U.S. VIEWS ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND/OR RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES, ANY REQUEST FROM US TO CONSIDER SUCH PROVISIONS IN A CONSULAR CONVENTION WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE MISREAD AT THIS TIME AS A POLITICAL SIGNAL IN RESPECT TO U.S. VIEWS ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK. THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS CONTAINED IN REFTEL A HIGHLIGHT THE IDFFICULTIES WE COULD EXPECT TO ENCOUNTER. THUS, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY TO THE MFA OUR VIEW THAT ON FURTHER CONSIDERATION THE PRESENT TIME IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF A CONSULAR CONVENTION.

5. THE CONSULATE GENERAL CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE.
VIETS

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